

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising:

means for uniquely allocating an electronic mail address to each of participants;

means for sending a first electronic mail to each of said participants, in which the electronic mail address is affixed as a unique access key to each of said participants;

means for recognizing an application for a lottery from each of said participants by receiving a second electronic mail sent back to said electronic mail address; and

means for notifying each one of said participants who sent back the second electronic mail to the electronic mail address of the result of said lottery.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein the result of said lottery is obtained by a drawing performed when the participant applies for said lottery.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein the result of said lottery is previously decided before said electronic mail is sent.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein recognition of the participant for said lottery is performed with said electronic mail address of each of said participants.

5. (CANCELED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein the notifying means notifies the result of said lottery to each of the participants, by sending a third electronic mail in which a URL of a page informing of the result and an access keyword, are affixed, to each of the participants.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 8 6, wherein the URL of the page informing of said result is separated into one for a win of a prize and the other for a failure in winning the prize.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 6, wherein by entering said access keyword and an electronic mail address to which said access keyword is sent into the page informing of said result, the page for the win of the prize and or the page of the failure in winning the prize can be accessed.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising:

means for uniquely allocating a keyword to be entered in a page of a URL, to each of participants;

means for sending an electronic mail in which the keyword is affixed as a unique access key, to each of the participants;

means for recognizing an application from each of said participants when said participant accesses the page of said URL and enters the keyword; and

means for notifying each of said participants of the result of the lottery.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lottery system according to claim 10, wherein the keyword is a destination mail address of said electronic mail.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein data of said participants who applied for the lottery is collected and stored.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein said lottery system is entirely incorporated into a computer system.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for conducting a lottery, comprising the steps of:

allocating uniquely an electronic mail address to each of participants;

sending by a host a first electronic mail in which an electronic mail address is affixed as a unique access key to each one of a plurality of specified participants;

recognizing said specified participants for a lottery by receiving a second electronic mail sent back to said electronic mail address from each of said participants;

conducting said lottery; and

notifying each one of the participants who sent back the second electronic mail of their result of said lottery.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising:

means for uniquely allocating a URL to each of participants;

means for sending an electronic mail in which the URL is affixed as a unique access key to each of the participants;

means for recognizing an application from each of the participants when the participant accesses a page of the URL and enters the electronic mail address of the participant; and

means for notifying each of said participants of the result of said lottery.

18. (NEW) The lottery system according to claim 10, wherein the electronic mail contains the URL.